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PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

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Politics of Latin America Autumn 2004

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber
Political Science Department, course #325

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Meets: Wednesdays 4:10-6:30

Office hours in LA 337: TR 12:30 - 2:00 (and by appointment)

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

John Peeler. *Building Democracy in Latin America*. Second Edition. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004.

William I. Robinson. *Transnational Conflicts: Central America, Social Change, and Globalization*.
New York: Verso Press, 2003.

These books will be supplemented by reserve readings that will be announced in class. This will entail some trips to the library reserve desk.

This course is designed to introduce students to the complexity of contemporary Latin American politics. In keeping with much of Latin American studies, we will approach our subject from an interdisciplinary perspective. Peeler, the author of the first book we will read, is a political scientist. Robinson, our second author, has a disciplinary background in sociology. However, even more important, is that both these authors and others we will read over the course of the semester employ combinations of history, economics, sociology, and cultural studies into their analyses. Furthermore, again in keeping with much of Latin American studies, both our readings and class room discussions will employ – and interrogate – various theoretical frameworks for understanding empirical data. No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Latin America. I do, however, assume a willingness on the part of students to work hard in the effort to engage the intricacies and nuances of the region and the literature we will together utilize as tools in this effort.

Grading: Exam 1 (40% of grade), Exam 2 (40%), attendance, assignments, and participation (20%)

Important dates: September 20 is the last day to drop class by Cyberbear and receive a full refund. October 11 is the last day to drop courses with instructor and advisor signatures on a drop/add form. October 11 is also the last day to change from credit/no credit (formally, pass/no pass to traditional letter grade or vice versa. See the back of class schedule for more details.

All students are required to read all assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. All assigned readings must be read carefully and analytically before we discuss them in class. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students may miss one class without explanation. After that, you must bring a typed statement explaining the absence (a phone call or verbal communication is both unnecessary and insufficient). Make a serious effort to get to class on time. If you come late, let me know why, and above all, make sure I put you down as not being absent. I regularly communicate with students by email, so if you do not have an address, try to get one soon. Those who do not check their email may well miss important information.

September 1	Introduction to the class. No reading.
September 8	Peeler chapters 1-2
September 15	Peeler chapters 3-4
September 22	Peeler chapters 5-6
September 29	Peeler chapter 7 and exam review
October 6	Exam 1
October 13	Robinson introduction and chapter 1
October 20	Robinson chapter 2
October 27	Robinson chapter 3
November 3	Robinson chapter 4
November 10	Holiday
November 17	Robinson chapter 5
November 24	To be announced
December 1	To be announced
December 8	To be announced and exam review
December 13	Exam 2 (1:10-3:10)

During Fall Semester 2004 you are enrolled in a University of Montana course that uses an online Blackboard supplement. This letter contains important steps you should take to access your online supplement and your official university email address. Taking these steps will help you to enjoy a successful educational experience using Blackboard, The University of Montana's Internet learning environment.

Follow these important steps to access your online supplement and your official university email address.

Accessing Your Online Supplement(s)

On the beginning date of your course, usually August 30, you may login to the UOnline Blackboard Website to access your supplement.

- 1) To find your official university username for Blackboard, login to Cyberbear and select *Personal Information*. Select *View Email Addresses*. Your username address is listed under the header *Official University Student E-mail Account* and is in the form fl123456@cue1.umt.edu. The first part of the account, before the @ symbol, is your username. Write this down as you will need it later.
- 2) Log out of Cyberbear.
- 3) Browse to <http://umonline.umt.edu>, then click **Login**
- 4) Enter your assigned username. Your password is your date of birth in six-digit format (for example, 062581 for June 25, 1981).

Accessing Your Official University Email Address

Your UOnline instructor will use your **official university email address**, assigned by The University of Montana, to communicate with you. Follow these steps to find and access your official university email address.

To access your official university email address, browse to <http://cue1.umt.edu>. Your username is the same as your Blackboard username (see #1 above - *Accessing Your Online Supplement*). Your password is your Cyberbear PIN (Personal Identification Number). (Note: When you were admitted to UM, initially your PIN was your date of birth; you may have changed your PIN since then. Use your current PIN number to access your official university email address.)

Online supplements offer students convenience, flexibility and new approaches to learning. We hope that you have a successful online learning experience.

Student Blackboard Orientation sessions will be offered during the first three weeks of classes. Visit the UOnline Student Information pages to view the schedule online: <http://umonline.umt.edu/studentsupport>

Questions? Need help?

For help with your new email account, contact the CIS Help Desk at telephone 406.243.4357 or via email helpdesk@selway.umt.edu

For help with your UOnline login, contact Marvin Paulson at telephone 406.243.6394 or via email marvin.paulson@umontana.edu

For general registration information, contact Clare Kelly at telephone 406.243.4626 or via email clare.kelly@umontana.edu